

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 00331 010415Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 HA-05 /024 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7097

UNCLAS SUVA 0331

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, CASC
SUBJECT: W/W: DEATH AND INJURY ON YACHT "SPELLBOUND", (EDWARDS,
LOREN, JOANNE WAZEL, GARRY LEE, KERRY AND OSKAM, SUZAN LORY)

REF: STATE 49724

1. HIGH COMMISSIONER PAPEETE HAS CABLED INFORMATION ABOUT TREGEDY
ABOARD YACHT "SPELLBOUND" INVOLVING 5 AMERICANS. THE CABLE
IDENTIFIES THE AMERICANS AS FOLLOWS:

1. LOREN EDWARDS, BORN NOV. 24, 1927, WASHINGTON, BUILDING
CONTRACTOR.
2. JOANNE WAZEL EDWARDS, NEE HOWHENSON, BORN APRIL 30, 1934,
SWIMMING INSTRUCTOR
3. GARY LEE EDWARDS, BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 08 DEC 2014]
4. KERRY EDWARDS, BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 08 DEC 2014].
5. SUZAN LORY OSKAM, BORN [Sensitive Informatino Removed Per NARA 08 DEC 2014], WASHINGTON.

2. LOREN AND JOANNE EDWARDS DIED AT SEA OFF THE ISLAND OF RANGIROA
IN THE TUAMUTU GAMBIE GROUP. WITNESSES SAY LOREN EDEARDS DIED OF
A HEAD TRAUMA. APPARENTLY, HE SUFFERED A DEEP GASH AT THE BACK
OF THE HEAD AND ON FOREHEAD. WITNESSES TESTIFY THAT JOANNE
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EDEARDS DIED OF A SELF-INFLICTED SHOT IN THE TEMPLE. BURIAL
ARRANGEMENTS WERE OFFERED BY THE TAHITI ADMINISTRATION BUT THE
BODIES WERE BURIED AT SEA OFF RANGIROA BETWEEN 0700 AND 0800
ON FEB . 25, 1978.

2. POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE DEATHS. GARY AND KERRY
EDWARDS, IDENTIFIED AS SON AND DAUGHTER OF LOREN AND JOANNE

EDWARDS WERE INJURED AND ARE COMMITTED TO HOSPITAL, MAMAO, PAPEETE, TAHITI. THERE IS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER PASSENGER, SUZAN LORY OSKAM.

3. EMBASSY MAKING FURTHER INQUIRES TO ADMINISTRATION IN TAHITI TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION. EMBASSY SENDING CONDOLENCES TO PARENTS MR. EDWARDS.
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